AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11 and 12 as shown below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A data processing system comprising:

a first computing device having a memory, [[and]] an expansion port, and a processor; and

an electronic memory device including an image stored therein and configured to be coupled to the expansion port, the image including data stored therein ~~that is loadable into the memory to configure the computing device~~ for configuring a second computing device,

wherein the processor is configured to:

acquire the image from the electronic memory device,

distribute the acquired image over a connection network to the second computing device, and

load the distributed image into a memory of the second computing device to configure the second computing device.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device further includes:

~~a connection network configured to provide a communications path;~~

~~a processor coupled to the connection network and configured to execute program code; and~~

an input/output controller coupled to the connection network and to the expansion port, the input/output controller configured to receive image data from the electronic memory device and to load the image data into the memory under control of the processor.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the first computing device further includes a flash memory for storing the image data received from the electronic memory device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic memory comprises one of a flash memory mass storage device, a compact flash storage device, a universal serial bus flash drive, an IEEE 1394 flash drive, and a removable mass storage device.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device comprises one of a thin client, a workstation, a personal digital assistant, an electronic mail appliance, and a server.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device is configured to communicate with [[a]] the connection network.

7. (Currently amended) A computing device comprising:

a connection network configured to provide a communications path;

a memory coupled to the connection network and configured to store program code;

a processor coupled to the connection network and configured to execute the stored program code;

an expansion port configured to receive a removable storage device coupled thereto; and

an input/output controller coupled to the connection network and to the expansion port, ~~the input/output controller configured to receive image data from the storage device and to load the image data into the memory for execution by the processor~~

wherein the processor is configured to:

acquire image data from the removable storage device;

distribute the acquired image data over the connection network to a remote computing device; and

load the distributed image data into a memory of the remote computing device to configure the remote computing device.

8. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7, further comprising:

a boot code module coupled to the connection network and configured to determine whether to boot the computing device from the removable storage device.

9. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7, further comprising:

a boot code module coupled to the connection network and configured to acquire the image data from the removable storage device.

10. (Original) The device of claim 7, further comprising:

an application module coupled to the connection network and configured to store application program code; and

a configuration module coupled to the connection network and configured to adjust parameters for the application module.

11. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7, further comprising:

an update module coupled to the connection network and configured to update at least a portion of the stored program code from the image data of the removable storage device.

12. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7, wherein the removable storage device comprises one of a flash memory mass storage device, a compact flash storage device, a universal serial bus flash drive, an IEEE 1394 flash drive, and a removable mass storage device.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for imaging a computing device from an attached storage device, the method comprising steps of:

determining whether to boot the computing device from the attached storage device;

responsive to the determining, executing boot code on the computing device to acquire an image from the attached storage device; and

booting the computing device using the acquired image.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the executing step further comprises acquiring an image from the attached storage device which comprises a flash memory mass storage device which is attached to the universal serial bus port.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step further comprises:

accessing an installed image in a memory of the computing device;

identifying the image on the attached storage device; and

comparing the identified image with the installed image.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step further comprises:

parsing the image on the attached storage device for a boot flag, wherein the boot flag indicates at least one condition for booting the image; and

evaluating the at least one condition.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the booting step further comprises:

loading the image from the attached storage device into a computing device memory; and

determining whether the image requires authentication.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving authentication data from a user responsive to determining whether the image requires authentication; and

decrypting the image using the authentication data.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for providing customized software for a computing device, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a customer order for the computing device;

parsing the customer order to determine configuration data;

building an image using the configuration data; and

writing the image to a storage device, the storage device being distributable to the customer.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the receiving step further comprises:

obtaining the customer order from an order processing system.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the building step further comprises:

obtaining at least one component from a database; and

assembling the at least one component into the image.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the building step further comprises:

generating a query to a configuration database based on the configuration data from the customer order; and

receiving the image from the configuration database responsive to the query.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the configuration database includes a plurality of stored images.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

coupling the storage device to the computing device; and

booting the computing device from the image stored in the storage device.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

packaging the storage device separate from the computing device for distribution to the customer.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

packaging the storage device with the computing device for distribution to the customer.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage device comprises one of a flash memory mass storage device, a compact flash storage device, a universal serial bus flash drive, an IEEE 1394 flash drive, and a removable mass storage device.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the computing device includes boot code for accessing the image from the storage device and for producing a configured computing device.

29. (Withdrawn) A system for imaging a computing device from an attached storage device, the system comprising:

means for determining whether to boot the computing device from the attached

storage device;

responsive to the determining means, means for executing boot code on the computing device to acquire an image from the storage device; and

means for booting the computing device using the acquired image.